

## MINUTES OF MEETING

*These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the RISLA Board of Directors. These minutes are being posted in order to be in compliance with the State Open Meetings Law. Board approved minutes will be submitted when available.*

The 337<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority was held on Friday, June 24, 2016 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 935 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, Rhode Island.

### Members in attendance:

Mr. Robert J. Delaney  
Ms. Christine Barnes Jenkins  
Ms. Beatrice Lanzi, Designee of the General Treasurer, State of RI  
Mr. Daniel Egan  
Ms. Sandra Mack, Esq.

### Member Absent:

Mr. Robert Theroux

### Others in attendance:

Mr. Charles Kelley  
Mr. Noel Simpson  
Ms. Jennifer Dutch  
Mr. Kevan McAleer  
Ms. Debbie Machowski  
Mr. Michael Capraro  
Mr. Adrian Calcagni  
Ms. Lindie Thibodeau-Johnson  
Mr. Joseph Palumbo

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Mr. Delaney.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lanzi and seconded by Mr. Egan, it was unanimously

VOTED to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2016 Board of Director's Meeting.

### Budget for 16/17 Fiscal Year

Mr. Kelley reviewed RISLA's proposed FY2017 budget. He noted that the federal student loan portfolio continues to decline but non-federal loan originations continue to increase and that RISLA's refinancing program is growing.

### ACTION ITEM: Adopt Budget

Upon a motion made by Mr. Egan and seconded by Ms. Mack, it was unanimously

VOTED to adopt the FY2017 Operating Budget.

### Sherlock Scholarship – Review and Sources for Future Funding

Mr. Kelley explained that since 2004, RISLA has annually awarded \$50,000 to 25 Rhode Island residents with financial need. The \$650,000 funding was provided by a grant from Nelnet's not for profit foundation and has been exhausted after the payment of the scholarships for the 2016/17 academic year. Mr. Kelley indicated that in the fall of 2015, RISLA received \$225,000 from the Iowa Student Loan organization in consideration for RISLA agreeing to terminate the direct loan servicing agreement with

them and transfer the servicing to MOHELA. Since RISLA did not incur any expenses associated with the conversion, staff is proposing that the board members designate these funds for the continued funding of need based scholarships for Rhode Islanders.

**ACTION ITEM: Sherlock Scholarship**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Lanzi and seconded by Ms. Mack, it was unanimously

VOTED to authorize the use \$225,000 to continue the Sherlock Scholarship program.

**Funding of Refinancing Loans**

RISLA has the ability to recycle loan payments from existing borrowers into new loans, specifically refinancing loans. RISLA staff proposes to use existing and future principal and interest payments collected on loans held or released from trusts in accordance with applicable bond indentures for the financing of RISLA refinancing loans.

**ACTION ITEM: Designation of Funding for Refinancing Loans**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Mack and seconded by Mr. Egan, it was unanimously

VOTED to authorize RISLA to use existing and future principal and interest payments on loans held in or released from bond trusts to finance RISLA's refinancing program.

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. Delaney encouraged each board member to advocate for RISLA's new low interest rates and lower fees.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Kelley announced that RISLA's bRIdge.jobs mobile app is now available in the Apple store and the android version is currently in process.

Mr. Kelley updated the board members regarding two legislation proposals S2453 and H7370, which explicitly authorize RISLA to refinance education loans and allow RISLA to purchase its own bonds as an investment.

**Preliminary Report on Move to New Offices**

Mr. Kelley told the board the RISLA has successfully moved into the new offices ahead of schedule and under budget.

**Employer Loan Repayment Program**

Mr. Kelley briefly discussed an employer loan repayment program that would be designed to help employees pay down loans faster. The program would also offer counseling for employees.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Egan and seconded by Ms. Lanzi, it was unanimously

VOTED to adjourn at 9:30 a.m.

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Mr. Robert Theroux  
Secretary